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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5056
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1376
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1203
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 0685
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1099

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000055

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV KDEM HA

SUBJECT: PREVAL IN JAMAICA TO INCREASE COOPERATION

REF: A. PORT AU PRINCE 42
1B. PORT AU PRINCE 38

11. Summary: President Rene Preval visited Jamaica January 3-7 to meet with GoJ officials and discuss bilateral and regional integration. President Preval and Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller publicly discussed strategies for eliminating the trafficking of drugs and weapons. Whereas Miller announced a plan that will get rid of trafficking "once and for all," Preval said that Jamaica and Haiti should not be held accountable since they are neither producer nor consumer countries of weapons and drugs. Haiti's re-integration into CARICOM, Petrocaribe implementation, tourism, agriculture, reforestation and education were the other issues discussed. Jamaica, Haiti's closest regional ally, has supported Haiti through its transition and has taken the lead in reintegrating Haiti into the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). End summary.

12. During a press conference, Jamaican Prime Minister Simpson Miller told her audience that the GoJ was planning a surprise attack to end trafficking once and for all. President Preval agreed that trafficking was a problem but did not offer a solution. He said that many drugs come to Haiti from Jamaica whereas weapons go to Jamaica from Haiti. However, neither Haiti nor Jamaica produces drugs and weapons, and the two countries are not major consumers either. (Note: Preval claimed Haiti was a victim of the United States, "a drug-consuming country," in a speech to parliament on January 9 (ref A). End note.)

13. According to PM Simpson Miller, Jamaica supports Haiti's re-integration into CARICOM and its participation in the CARICOM Single Market Economy (CSME). Preval confirmed that Haiti was proceeding with technical preparations that would eventually allow it to participate in the CSME (ref B).

14. Michel Lecorps, newly appointed head of the Bureau of Monetization (which is charged with the Petrocaribe dossier) joined the delegation to discuss implementation of the Venezuelan initiative. Lecorps told Poloff January 9 that Haiti is in the implementing stage but is still working out the modalities of the agreement. Jamaica was a wise choice for consultation as the first country in the region to implement Petrocaribe (see septel). Lecorps confirmed the discussion and resulting agreements between the two countries on education, agriculture and reforestation.

¶ 15. According to tourism minister Patrick Delatour (also in Jamaica), Haiti could learn from Jamaica's experience as a country that had an image of instability and insecurity. Haiti is considering doing what Jamaica did years ago: promoting parts of the country like Cap Haitien, which has the Citadelle, a legendary fortress built in the early 1800s; Jacmel, a beautiful coastal city known for its handicrafts; and various islands surrounding the Haitian mainland. Delatour said that Jamaica could also benefit from Haiti's expertise in handicrafts.

¶ 16. Comment: Despite Jamaica's hostility toward the interim government -- and its fear of becoming a destination for maritime economic migrants from Haiti -- the country has come forward as one of the most pro-Haiti CARICOM members since Haiti's democratic elections in 2006. As Haiti moves forward with regional integration, Haiti will look to its "sister nation" (according to PM Simpson Miller) as a partner and a friend.

SANDERSON